THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) No, Sir,

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Quality of foodgrains supplied under Public Distribution System

*11. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the sub-standard foodgrains being supplied under the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Food Corporation of India issues rice and wheat of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) within the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act standards to state Governments and UT Administrations. Procurement of rice and wheat is made at various producing areas in the country. Thus, slight variation within the specified standards in the quality of the foodgrains released simultaneously from different godowns could not be altogether ruled out.

The distribution of rice and wheat to the consumers through the Fair Price shops (FPS) is administered by the State Governments and UT Administrations. The Central Government has requested, from time to time, the State Governments/UT Administrations to tighten supervision and inspection arrangements to ensure that proper quality of wheat and rice reaches the consumers.

[*English*]

Use of Combined Brand Name

*12. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indian manufacturers, who are having foreign collaborations, are using the combined brand names/ hybrid names like Hero-Honda, Maruti-Suzuki, DCM-Toyota, Swaraj Mazda, Allwyn Nissan/Mahindra Nissan etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the use of such combined brand names is affecting the sales of indigenous manufacturers including the Public Sector Units; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to ban the use of such combined brand names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir,

(c) There is no evidence to this effect.

(d) No, Sir.

Protection for BIDI Workers

*13. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make a special law for the protection of labour involved in Bidi industry in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to include the bidi workers under the contract labour system;

(c) whether the Government also pro-

pose to fix minimum wages for all the bidi workers and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is proposed to link up the minimum wages with the consumer price index?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL(SHRI P.A. SANGAMA): (a) to (d). Government does not propose to make any more special law for protection of beedi workers as there are sufficient legal provisions in the existing special law Viz. beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of employment) Act, 1966 to safeguard interests and to regulate the conditions of employment of beedi workers.

2. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 applies to the beedi workers also if either the establishment or the contractor employs 20 or more workers.

3. The State Governments, as appropriate Governments fix minimum wages for Beedi Workers from time to time. There is no proposal for the Central Government to fix minimum wages for Beedi Workers.

4. Minimum wages for beedi workers has been linked to the Consumer Price Index in some States.

Central Public Sector Undertakings Functioning without Chief Executives.

*14. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central Public Sector Undertakings Functioning without Chief Executives at present;

(b) since when these have been functioning without Chief Executives;

(c) the reasons for delay in these appointments and the time by which these are likely to be filled up; and

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to hand over the task of selection of Chief Executives of the Central Public Sector Undertaking to the Union Public Service commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). As per the available information, there are 25 Central public sector undertakings where the posts of Chief Executives are vacant as on 15.11.1991. The details of these posts are given in the attached statement.

(c) These vacancies had arisen due to various factors like superannuation of the incumbent, termination of service, expiry of tenure, resignation and lateral transfer from one enterprise to another etc. As per the procedure the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) is to consider selection for the Board -level positions and make its recommendations. These are than processed by the Government and final appointments are made only after the formalities like verification of character and antecedents of appointees, their post performance and vigilance clearance completed. Delay also occurs where the appointees take time to join or finally do not join. In some cases, a specific talent is to be spotted, time is taken to fill up such vacant posts. Selection for the Board-level positions is a continuing process and efforts are made to fill up these vacancies as early as possible.

(d) No, Sir.